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ARMY (3RD) FORT MCPHERSON GA

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TYPICAL CRIMES ON THIRD ARMY POSTS: CASE STUDIES. A COMMANDER'S--ETC(U)  
1972

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Case Studies

LEVEL II

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DIVISION NO. 4  
OCT 27 1972  
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⑥ TYPICAL CRIMES ON THIRD ARMY POSTS!

Case Studies

A Commander's Tool for Crime Prevention  
through Command Information.



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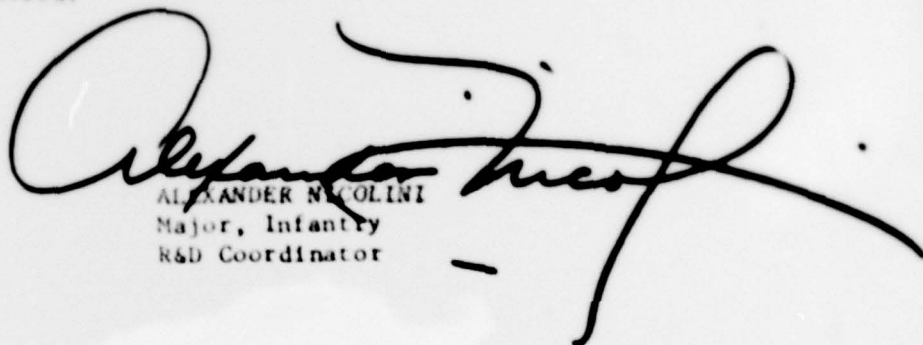
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FOR THE CHIEF:



ALEXANDER NICOLINI  
Major, Infantry  
R&D Coordinator

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## A FEW WAYS TO USE THIS KIT



**BULLETIN BOARDS** Establish a Crime Prevention section on your bulletin board in the unit day-room, orderly room or mess hall. Use several Case Studies at once or just put up one each week to keep Crime Prevention continually in the eyes of your men.



**UNIT NEWSPAPERS** Print one Case Study in your unit newspaper each week.



**COMMANDER'S CALLS** Case Studies make good discussion tools for Commander's Calls. We suggest that you read or describe the situation; have the troops discuss how it could have been avoided; then read our suggested solutions. (Blackboards are good for listing your findings and keeping them clear for all the men.)



DON'T BE ROBBED OF ONE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE WORD OUT!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each Case Study is based on typical circumstances recorded in official Provost Marshal crime reports. The solutions are suggested by Sergeant First Class John E. Conley, Operations NCO, Office of the Provost Marshal, Fort McPherson, Georgia.

CRIME SITUATION:

SGT Sims and SSG Howard went out drinking at a downtown spot last Friday night. They stayed until the club closed, and then learned that the last bus back to post had already gone. They knew they had to walk, and since there were two of them and they felt relatively safe, they decided to take the shortcut back to post across an unlighted golf course. About halfway back, they were attacked and robbed by a group of men whom they couldn't identify.



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THEY SHOULD HAVE . . .

Paid more attention to the time and left for post on the last bus, but, since they did have to walk back to their billets, they should have taken a well lighted and heavily travelled route. (These are frequently patrolled by civil and Military Police patrols.)

Robbers and thieves know the "short-cuts" which individuals missing the last bus to post will likely use, and they know the dark areas and places to hide as they wait for unsuspecting victims.

Since motorized police patrols cannot drive on golf courses and such areas are normally not patrolled by foot patrols, it makes good sense to avoid them.

### CRIME SITUATION:

Staff Sergeant Hicks works in a staff office on post. Since he knows all the men he works with and trusts them, he's always left his radio out on his desk. Last Monday morning his radio was gone.



### HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Set the example for his staff by placing his radio and other valuable items in a locked place during off-duty hours while he was not using them. Although he knows and trusts the members of his staff, there are many other people who have access to the office -- cleaning crews, messengers, and so forth -- whom he does not know and who might be looking for an opportunity to steal.

He also should have had his radio marked with a positive identification, such as engraving or hidden name plate. If he could give this information or if he could give the serial number to the Military Police, he might very well get his property back. (NOTE: Police have the right to confiscate property from pawn shops and individuals who purchased it, and they can return it to the victim if it can be positively identified.)

CRIME SITUATION:

Sergeant Wyley is a good guy, and so he didn't hesitate to reach into his pocket when a fellow soldier stopped him to ask for a light last Tuesday night. As soon as he had his hand in his pocket, however, someone hit him from behind and ran off with his wallet.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Had more sense than to be out alone after dark. He should also have been more careful of strangers asking for a light or for change. By putting his hand in his pocket, he asked to be clobbered and robbed.

He should have looked behind him and kept his distance from the other guy until he could get the light. If he had, he might still have his wallet.

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CRIME SITUATION:

SP5 McFarland claims he is innocent, but it doesn't look that way. According to McFarland, last Tuesday night at the club he saw a fight developing between a group of blacks and a boisterous white trooper. Since he's a leader, SP5 McFarland stepped in to break it up. By the time the MP's arrived at the scene, it looked like McFarland had started the whole thing.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Made a more realistic effort by realizing that one man cannot alone stop a fight that has involved ten or twelve people -- especially when these people have been drinking.

If he had really wanted to help he should have notified the Military Police as soon as possible and then guarded the door to make sure the real culprits did not escape before the authorities arrived. SP5 McFarland would have been much more valuable to the police as a disinterested, uninvolved witness than he was as a contributor to the confusion.

CRIME SITUATION:

CPT Eller was driving back to the BOQ last Monday night about dark. When he saw a couple of young enlisted men hitching a ride, he pulled over and offered them a lift. He's still in the hospital.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Picked up only individuals whom he recognized and trusted. Good guys too frequently become the victims of criminals posing as hitchhikers. (That's why Army Regulations prohibit solicitation of rides.)

### CRIME SITUATION:

SP5 Salvatore was so excited to learn that he was going to get back over \$200 from his income tax that he told everybody in the company. When the check finally came, he cashed it immediately and took a buddy to the club to celebrate. They didn't get into any fights that he can remember, but when they got back to the billets his wallet was missing about a hundred dollars. He's still wondering where the money went.



### HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Kept his good luck to himself. SP5 Salvatore's first mistake was in advertising that he had received \$200 as tax refund. Such information is just what a robber or thief needs.

Salvatore's second mistake was in carrying the money with him. Soldiers seldom need to carry that much cash. SP5 Salvatore would have been wise to deposit the money in a checking or savings account or to request that his Commanding Officer secure a portion of it in the unit safe until he had a need for it.

CRIME SITUATION:

PFC Johnson is usually more careful than some of his buddies who have had their wallets stolen out of the barracks lately. So when he went to take a shower one evening last week, he put his wallet in his foot locker and locked it up. When he came back from the latrine, however, he discovered that someone had stolen his whole footlocker.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

17 . . . Asked a buddy to hold his wallet for him while he showered or secured it in his wall locker and kept the keys around his neck. A footlocker can be carried away quite easily. (To be really safe he could have placed his wallet in a small plastic bag with a cord attached and either carried the bag or worn it around his neck while showering.)

CRIME SITUATION:

SP4 Altman had a Honda until last Tuesday. Since you can't start it without the key, he felt relatively safe about leaving it in the company parking lot along with a couple of his buddies' bikes. But last Tuesday, someone apparently picked up a few bikes around post with a pick-up truck.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Secured his bike to a fixed object, such as a guard rail or post, with a heavy-guage chain and large lock. If such a fixture were not available, he and his friends could have chained several bikes together to make them more difficult to remove. A "hitching post" for bikes and motorcycles in a well-lighted part of the company parking area might have prevented this crime.

CRIME SITUATION:

PFC Moore has as many black friends as white, and does not consider himself prejudiced. In fact, he and his buddies kid around about race all the time. Last payday, PFC Moore was at the EM Club drinking with a group of guys, including a couple of black soldiers he didn't know. He made his usual jokes, expecting the others to come back with an equally funny insult. Instead, someone broke a chair over his head.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Realized that racial and ethnic jokes are seldom taken as funny -- and they are never funny to strangers who have been drinking.

He would have been much better off if he had told elephant jokes and left the racial jokes to Bill Cosby and Archie Bunker.

CRIME SITUATION:

SP4 Truman got out of the Army this week, but he's not as happy as he could be. Last Wednesday he decided to pack his car to be ready for his ETS on Monday. Last Thursday someone noticed his loaded car, broke out the windows, and stole his portable TV, his stereo, and most of his clothes.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Used his car to go home in and not as a safe deposit box or storage area. Stealing from parked cars is a common crime not only on military installations but also within the civilian community. Thieves prowl parking lots looking into automobiles for objects to steal -- and locked doors, trunks or windows seldom stop them. Individuals should not leave packages and high dollar value items in their cars -- that's asking for trouble.

CRIME SITUATION:

Sergeant Herrington parked his car in an unlighted spot last weekend before going home on the plane. When he got back to post late Sunday night he found that his car had been vandalized and his wheel covers and tape deck were missing.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Contacted the Military Police, informed them that he was planning to leave his car on post during his leave, and asked for their assistance as to a suitable parking place.

The Military Police would have recommended a well-lighted, guarded parking area or one that is patrolled by foot or motorized patrols.

They also would have made a special effort to check his car during his leave while performing their routine patrol duties.

CRIME SITUATION:

LT Singleton was checking out the battalion area as the battalion duty officer last Thursday night about midnight. When a young soldier from another company came up and asked him for change in the company parking lot, he was most willing to try to help. But when he pulled out his wallet, the man snatched his wallet, someone struck him from behind, and the two thieves took off.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Been more alert and suspicious of strangers in his battalion area late at night. His first action should have been to find out who the intruder was and what he wanted -- careful, of course, to look behind him and make sure no one was about to clobber him. Secondly, he should not have been alone. A companion -- his driver, the CQ runner, or a company CQ -- would likely have scared off the thief or at least could have helped the lieutenant protect himself.

CRIME SITUATION:

SP6 Wills is a first cook and has his own room in the barracks. During summer months he usually leaves his door open while he sleeps to get some ventilation, but he keeps his money and his jewelry locked in a wall locker. He sleeps with his keys under his pillow, so no one could get into his locker. But one day last week he woke up to find his wallet and watch missing from his locked wall locker. His keys were still under his pillow.



HE SHOULD HAVE . . .

Taken more care to put his keys in a really safe place. Keys can be easily removed from under pillows while unsuspecting victims sleep -- but not if the keys are pinned to pillow cover with a small safety pin.

Another good way to prevent this sort of crime is to wear keys on a chain around the neck.

If he had taken just a little extra effort, he might have prevented the crime and saved his wallet.

